

May 2019

Dear Parents,

Proficiency Scales for Report Cards in 2019-2020

Walton Elementary will not be using letter grades for Grade 4 and 5 report cards beginning in the 2019-2020 school year. The intermediate teachers will adopt the use of Proficiency Scales instead. This is the scale that the primary students have been using. We feel that the use of Proficiency Scales provides a more accurate description of your child's learning.

- EX Extending:** The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and Competencies in relation to the expected learning.
- P Proficient:** The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies in relation to the expected learning.
- D Developing:** The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies in relation to the expected learning.
- EM Emerging:** The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies in relation to the expected learning.

Proficiency Scale	→			
	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
	The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.

This may come as a surprise to you. However, the trend in recent years in British Columbia, particularly in Coquitlam, has been to move away from letter grades at elementary school and to provide more authentic feedback about your child's progress.

Why? Simply put, we must revisit why we write report cards. Report cards provide students and parents with a snapshot of their learning at the time it is written. Letter grades do not provide the most accurate description of a child's learning. We realize that students and parents see letter grades as a "badge" of achievement. Universities do not ask to see Grade 4 or Grade 5 report cards for entrance purposes. Learning is a continuous process. This better aligns with the revised BC curriculum and the core and curricular competencies. In fact, letter grades can be distracting as students and parents are focused on the letter grade and not the accompanying comments that describe the learning.

The teachers this year have agreed that moving to Proficiency Scales will provide more authentic feedback regarding your child's learning.

We realize that this may be a shift for many families, but we are confident that you'll find the reporting process more informative. However, at this time, under the School Act, parents can still request letter grades from their child's teacher during the reporting period.

We will have more information for you shortly.

Thank you for your attention.

Regards,

Mr. C. Mah and Ms. L. Kemp